

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 ACDA-19 SAM-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 EB-11

DRC-01 /183 W

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R 051500Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7590

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS CAIRO 4903

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SY

SUBJ: ASSAD INTERVIEW IN AHRAN

1. AHRAM JULY 5 FEATURES INTERVIEW WITH ASAD BY STAFFER MAKRAM

MUHAMMED AHMAD. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW, IN PARAPHRASED, SUMMARY FORM:

(A) DISENGAGEMENT: DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, WHICH IS FIRST STEP

TOWARD TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND INSURING PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, WAS DELAYED SIX MONTHS NOT BY RARG BUT BY GOI WHICH AD#THOUGH SYRIA WAS UNABLE

CONTINUE WAR OF ATTRITION. SARG POSITON THROUGHOUT DISENAGEMENT

TALKS WAS IN LINE WITH CONDITION

ACCEPTED FOR CEASEFIRE, "WHEN WE

TOLD WALDHEIM OF OUR ACCEPTANCE OF RES 338, WHICH STIPULATES TOTAL

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WITHDRAWAL AND INSURANCE OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHTS."

(B) GENEVA: WE WILL GO TO GENEVA IF THIS WILL BRING ABOUT JUST PEACE. WE MUST BE VIGILANT THAT GOE DOES NOT USE CONFERENCE TO BUY TIME. WIL WILL NEVER WAVER ON TWO CONDITIONS FOR PEACE: WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. "ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL CIRCLES UNDERSTAND" THAT CONFERENCE WILL MEET IN SEPTEMBER. SARG-GOE TALKS NOW CONCERN METHOD OF ACTION AT CONFERENCE.

(C) JORDAN: ASKED IF KHADDAM'S TALKS IN JORDAN DEALT WITH CONCILIATION

BETWEEN GOJ AND RESISTANCE, ASAD SAID RECENT CONTACTS WITH AMMAN DID NOT AIM AT THAT. BUT, AS ARABS, WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTINUE CONSULTA-

TIONS.

(D) SADAT-ASAD MEETING: SARG-GOE UNDERSTANDING IS MASTAY OF ARAB SECURITY. BILATERAL SUMMIT WILL BE HELD SOON IN CAIRO OR DAMASCUS, AND MAY PROCEDE BOTH LIMITED ARAB SUMMIT FOR GENEVA PARTICIPANTS AND RABAT SUMMIT.

(E) US ROLE: SOLE GUARTEE OF POLITICAL SOLUTION IS THE WILL OF EGYPT AND SYRIA. USG REALIZES SHORTCOMING OF ITS PREVIOUS POSITION. WE MUST EXERT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP USG STAND, WHICH IS IN HARMONY WITH US INTERESTS. AMERICA IS COMMITTED TO WORK FOR WORLD PEACE; WE MUST DEEPEN COMMITMENT. HIGH RANKING SYRIAN WILL SOON LEAVE FOR USTO DISCUSS

"EXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS", OCCUPATION AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS; TALKS MAY DEAL WITH "COOPERATION".

(F) USSR: SOVIET CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE EFFORTS IS ESSENTIAL. FRIENDSHIP WITH USSR DOES NOT PREVENT ARABS FROM WINNING NEW FRIENDS. ASAD SAID HE HAS NO INFO ON BREZHNEV VISIT TO DAMASCUS.

(G) US GRANT TO ISRAEL: ASKED ABOUT USG'S WRITING OFF \$500 MILLION MILITARY AID TO ISRAEL, ASAD SEEMED TO SKIRT THE QUESTION, REPLYING THAT FRIENDSHIP DOES NOT MEAN AGREEING ON EVERYTHING; NEVERTHELESS, USS (SIC) IS A FRIENDLY COUNTRY.

(H) OCTOBER WAR: DECISION TO GO TO WAR WAS TAKEN AT BORG AL-ARAB (NEAR ALEXANDRIA) BY ASAD AND SADAT ON APRIL 23 AND 24, 1973 AND CONFIRMED AT THEIR DAMASCUS MEETING IN AUGUST.

(I) ECONOMY: SYRIAN PRIVATESECTOR WILL BE GIVEN EVERY CHANCE PLAY ROLE IN STRAIGHENING NATIONAL ECONOMY; PUBLIC SECTOR WILL CONTINUE PLAY ITS IMPORTANT ROLE.

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